

**CHAPTER NO. 773**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2883**

**By Elsea, Haun, Cooper, Davis**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 2551**

**By Rhinehart**

AN ACT To designate a bridge in Bledsoe County as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, Since the birth of our great nation, hundreds of thousands of brave American men and women have served their country in the United States Armed Forces and many continue this legacy of service today, defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, This meritorious service continues the time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the intrepid and valiant members of the United States Armed Forces have continued to inspire our confidence, loyalty and support; and

WHEREAS, From Valley Forge to Vietnam, to the present war-torn lands of Afghanistan and the Middle East, our armed forces have unselfishly paid the price of freedom for their friends and families, and for all of us; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we should honor those courageous men and women who have made many sacrifices to preserve the blessed freedoms we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The Bledsoe County Commission has requested that a certain bridge be named to honor and recognize all those brave sons and daughters of Bledsoe County who sacrificed personal concerns and their safety, with many of them giving their lives, so that we might enjoy the many bounties of democracy and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:**

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the new bridge located south of the City of Pikeville on State Route 30 in Bledsoe County is hereby designated as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge in Bledsoe County as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of

this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.


SECTION 5. (1) This act shall become operative only if Bledsoe County, Tennessee, either remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufactures such signs in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2). Bledsoe County shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to Bledsoe County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Bledsoe County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(2) Bledsoe County may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.


SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 15, 2002**

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2002**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR